

Like Erap, FPJ will win on EQ, says educator



By Gene Pascual

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Use drops GMA name to defy DGH secretary

By Ernesto S. Meara

"IF YOU WANT TO QUESTION MY AUTHORITY, BETTER QUESTION THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT!"

The warning, in bold capital letters, was part of a two-page letter addressed to Manila Secretary General Jose B. Soliman, Jr. by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

# Bid to disqualify FPJ fails

Lawyers say it ain't over, will pursue fight at SC

By Carlos P. Padilla and Terra Quinsada

MANILA In the opposition, Don't jump for joy just yet.

The lawyers behind the disqualification case against presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., which the Commission on Elections dismissed yesterday, said opponents they would file a motion for reconsideration on Monday.

At the same time, two more lawyers entered the picture, petitioning the Supreme Court on Thursday to decide on Poe's citizenship issue.

And a Manila prosecutor announced Poe in connection with charges of perjury and falsification of public documents.

Inductively, then, one of the lawyers who helped file the disqualification case and brother of the main petitioner, Vicente Foran, said he felt that the Commission apparently lacked the time to



## HIGH FIVE

"Erp's Pong" Fernando Poe Jr.'s lawyers, Emilio Mendoza and Steve Brillantes, did a high five after winning the PRC disqualification case in the Commission hearing presided over by Commissioner Rosendo Maras (right). Lawyer Andy Foran (left), who filed the disqualification case against Poe, is not saying "Pong." Poe's big 5-minute rebuttal follows.



## PETITIONER

The Commission on Elections dismissed the disqualification case against Poe Jr. by lawyer Maras.

# Ruling says petition failed to show proof

By Rauli P. Pichay

NO MORE than what was served by written affidavits and oral testimony of witnesses, the Commission on Elections dismissed the petition for disqualification filed against presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. by lawyer Maras.

## COMMENTARY

The Commission dismissed the petition for disqualification filed against presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. by lawyer Maras.

The ruling, simple and terse, failed to present evidence to show that Poe presented a valid disqualification case. It is a disqualification case, but it is not a disqualification case. It is a disqualification case, but it is not a disqualification case. It is a disqualification case, but it is not a disqualification case.

The Commission dismissed the petition for disqualification filed against presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. by lawyer Maras.

Decision not final word on citizenship

By Marcelo Mendiola

THE COMMISSION ON Elections yesterday cleared the way for opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. to run for president, after dismissing a disqualification case against him for "lack of merit."

The speedy decision was promptly welcomed by Poe and other presidential candidates. (See sidebar on Page A4.) The lawyers behind the case, however, said they were determined to appeal the decision, suggesting that the political maneuvering started by the case could begin to heat up again.

The ruling of the five members of the Integrated Commission on Elections (COMELEC) was issued 30 days after the Supreme Court denied the disqualification case.

"We feel we are in a very good position to win the election," said Poe. "We feel we are in a very good position to win the election." "We feel we are in a very good position to win the election."

The Commission found that the "petition and the evidence failed to show that Poe presented a valid disqualification case."

Manapat in deeper rut for taking out 'smoking gun'

By Michael Lim Lim

THE MANPAT director of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) might see national elections as an occasion to end his search for the "smoking gun" that would prove that Manapat had broken the marriage contract between his father, Alan Manapat, and his mother, Gloria Manapat.

Manapat, who works as a security manager, said he was Manapat assigned to the computer section of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in 1988. He was assigned to the computer section of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in 1988.



# Chinoy woman rescued; 10 kidnappers rounded up

By TJ Ruyos and Lita S. Sotomayor

FOLLOWING an intense six-hour search from the military and National Bureau of Investigation, two bodies of a kidnapper's victim in Manila, Philippines, were found. The victim was a Chinese woman, who was kidnapped by a group of men in Manila, Philippines.

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Peso hits all-time low on political uncertainty

By Christine S. Bello

THE PESO yesterday plunged to an all-time closing low of P55.75 against the US dollar, weighed down by lingering political uncertainty ahead of the May presidential election.

Many analysts say the peso's decline could further weaken the economy and prompt foreign banks to demand much higher interest rates on loans to the Philippines. Analysts note that the peso's decline could further weaken the economy and prompt foreign banks to demand much higher interest rates on loans to the Philippines.

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RECOVER HOME, President Aquino says her job is to meet with representatives for former dictator General Corason in Manila.

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**WEATHER FORECAST**  
Forecast: The region, except for Metro Manila and areas immediately adjacent, will have mostly sunny to partly cloudy weather with temperatures ranging from 26 to 32 degrees Celsius. The rest of the country will have mostly cloudy to partly cloudy weather with temperatures ranging from 24 to 30 degrees Celsius.

Area	Forecast	Temp
Manila	Partly cloudy	26-32
Quezon	Partly cloudy	26-32
Calabarzon	Partly cloudy	26-32
Central Luzon	Partly cloudy	26-32
Western Visayas	Partly cloudy	26-32
Central Visayas	Partly cloudy	26-32
Eastern Visayas	Partly cloudy	26-32
Western Mindanao	Partly cloudy	26-32
Central Mindanao	Partly cloudy	26-32
Eastern Mindanao	Partly cloudy	26-32

# Second FRONT PAGE

## 2M Pinays battered, survey says

By Ma. Cora P. Dizon

ABOUT 2.16 million Filipino women, or nine percent of women aged 18 and above, have experienced physical abuse, with a majority saying the harm was inflicted by their partners, that is, their husbands, boyfriends and fiancés, according to a Social Weather Stations survey.

An even larger percentage of men—12 percent or 2.8 million—admitted having physically harmed women, the majority of whom were their wives, girlfriends and fiancés, said the "Social Weather Station on Domestic Violence Against Women," which was released yesterday.

The survey, conducted in November 2004, was commissioned by two women's rights groups, the Kadiwala Foundation and the Women's Welfare City (WWC), according to SWWS project coordinator Linda Lina. However, she explained the results in the media yesterday.

**The Kadiwala Foundation**  
The survey also indicated the harm surrounding the film *Agapito: Love, Marriage and Betrayal*, a TV personality and single mother, is the youngest daughter of former President Corason Aquino and married Ben Braggas, Aquino Jr.

In an opinion media interview to supplement 2004, Aquino revealed that she was physically assaulted with a gun and verbally abused by her husband, *Insular* magazine editor Marjorie, a married man with children.

**'She deserved it'**  
The SWWS said respondents from the A.B.C. were economic classes "have the strongest negative view" that wife Aquino deserved what happened to her.

She stated with another finding that "aggression on personal history is by a crime, a higher among classes ABC."

While comparing to 30 percent of respondents, diagnosed with the statement that "the Aquino deserves what happened to her" 24 percent agreed, while 14 percent disagreed, while 11 percent of the 25 percent who agreed with the ABC socio-economic class.

"This is the class where Aquino belongs," PWS executive director Anna Leah Sanchez explained.

"Marjorie they hit because, and reported her to be in a society was given her background," Lina said.

The survey covered Metro Manila, Luzon, the Visayas and

Mindanao. It had a sample size of 3,000 and a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percent.

The data may reveal the number of physical victims, since it only covers physical harm and not other common forms of violence against women such as verbal abuse," said Kadiwala executive director Robinson Palio-Castaneda.

All the women also said they had been married by their husbands, in power and they were not, more than one. One third, or 33 percent, could not count the number of times they were abused.

**Outside marriage**  
Consent was given that last, trying and abuse did occur outside of marriage. Eighty-nine percent of women in a non-married relationship have been physically harmed at least once by their boyfriends.

In a joint statement, PWS, Kadiwala and WWC said the problem continues because abuse is never given prizes.

"The survey reveals that an overwhelming majority of women are battered physical victims by their male biological partners but not report the incident, nor even to a friend or a family member," the statement said.

"This is not surprising. Women victims of partner abuse continue to be judged and blamed for being a victim, that the evidence is their lack, being suggest at continuing to stay in the relationship, and when they report the abuse and

leave, they are blamed for leaving the relationship," said Castaneda.

They also stated that the top three reasons women did not report the abuse were: it is embarrassing; they don't know how and where to report; nothing would be done anyway; and it is too small a thing to bother about.

The survey also revealed that Filipinos overwhelmingly agree that specific acts of violence such as threatening women with a deadly weapon (the report is 64 percent), verbal abuse (55 percent), physical abuse (49 percent), sexual violence (49 percent), and preventing women from working (32 percent) were wrong. This time on actual acts, socio-economic class, gender and age matter.

**Awareness higher**  
The women's groups behind the study revealed that awareness of women's rights is a 69 percent rate, higher than it was 10 years ago when it was 51 percent.

But this could be the result of the growth of women's advocacy. She said the SWWS survey is also the only one that has been conducted in the past 10 years, after the passage of the Anti-Rape Law and the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law.

The Anti-Sexual Harassment Law, signed by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, was signed in 2004.

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## Abused wife saved from death row

By Jerome Anong

THE KADIWALA Foundation has secured a woman from the death row after she was convicted for the murder of her husband. She was found guilty of murdering her husband but by the court she was found innocent.

In 2004, the high court, considering her husband's wife, the court found her innocent. She was found guilty of murdering her husband but by the court she was found innocent.

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## More Asian teens practicing unsafe sex, warns WHO

ASIAN adolescents are turning away from abstinence to a more liberal approach, the WHO said.

One "called on governments to address more funds and resources for adolescent health," adding that the WHO would review the adolescent health programs of member states at a meeting in Manila next week.

The United Nations agency also said that 23 percent of people between 15 and 24 years of age had engaged in sexual intercourse, 70 percent of whom were not using any form of contraception.

In Singapore, up to 30 percent of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among youth, it added.

The WHO is working with review adolescent health programs and to help countries build up their capacities to address the common goal of improving adolescent reproductive health. AFP

## Lawyers working to save 2 convicts

EFFORTS to secure the release of two convicted killers, who were found guilty of the murder of a woman, are being made by lawyers.

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# Senate passes 2004 budget

By Michael Lawless

SENATOR BERNARDO LACOR, the Senate panel's PRRG-R (Public-Private-Regulatory-Group) General Appropriations Act of 2004, debated in the Senate budget after only five days of legislative sessions.

Senate for opposition Senator Francisco D. Irujo, who resigned a negative vote, all 13 other senators present during yesterday's plenary session approved the budget version of the GAA.

Planned ahead because the budget 2004 "is meant to be limited for the development of Mindanao."

He stressed enough money had been allocated for the war-torn and poverty-stricken island, including the funding for the peace process, in comparison to the rest of the country.

The Senate, however, did not reach the PRRG-R (Public-Private-Regulatory-Group) General Appropriations Act of 2004.

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# SSS goes after Erap pal who owes P375M

By Carlos Pardo

THE SOCIAL Security System is seeking to recover a P375-million loan the previous president accepted to "start his" William G. Cojuangco during the end of last year, according to President Joseph Estrada.

SSS president and chief executive officer Gerardo de la Cruz said the SSS has taken steps to recover the loan made to Worldline Philippines Inc., a publicly listed company owned by Cojuangco.

"We have a problem with repayment, SSSC, the SSSC (Social Security System) is not repaying the loan," he said.

Cojuangco (SSS) (Social Security System) is looking for ways to recover the P375-million loan made to Worldline Philippines Inc., a publicly listed company owned by Cojuangco.

According to Cojuangco, the P375-million loan was made to the

Cojuangco group as an "income investment," noting that it was contracted during Estrada's term.

De la Cruz said the SSS had granted the loan with a repayment term of five years. The loan, De la Cruz said, was used to finance the construction and upgrading of NRI's stock in Cebu.

He said the P375-million loan was used to finance the "start-up" and was fully collateralized.

"The SSS was in the news after it sold its 20 percent stake in the Manila PG Bank as a proxy that was up before its acquisition cost is a significant loss."

Cojuangco's lawyer said that a House panel of the "Bongbong" side of the Philippine PG Bank is in the Philippines PG Bank in Cebu, a national bank owned by Worldline Philippines Inc.

At the House, Sen. Jorge Dela Cruz also questioned the deal as a privilege speech, claiming that PG Bank "bought back" in the controversial sale.

# Gov't bans poultry from all Asian countries

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday banned poultry imports from all Asian countries to prevent the entry of avian influenza, or the bird flu, as it is spreading in Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.

Secretary of Animal Industry Chief Jose Malinao said a memorandum banning imports of all "poultry and any products of poultry origin" originating from Asia, Europe, Africa, Oceania and any other country is in effect. Malinao said the memorandum is in effect.

The Department of Agriculture said the ban is in effect to prevent the entry of avian influenza, or the bird flu, as it is spreading in Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.

Earlier Friday, Thailand's Health Minister Nattaphol Kiatphong said the country's first human case of bird flu is reported. Bangkok, he said, three more people are being tested.

Previously, Bangkok had said that, one bird flu, was killing

at least.

The virus has killed a number of people in Vietnam, and the epidemic spread through South Korea last year.

Japan also suffered last year from the outbreak in 75 years, resulting in the death or slaughter of tens of thousands of birds.

Last week, the Department of Agriculture imposed an immediate ban on imports of domestic and wild birds as well as poultry products from Japan and Viet-

nam due to a confirmed outbreak of bird flu in Vietnam.

The Philippines does not import poultry from any of these countries, but Agriculture Secretary Jose Antonio Linao said there was a possibility that some birds may be imported from Vietnam and Japan.

The country imports chicken meat from the United States and Canada, as well as day-old broilers in chicks from France, Germany and the Netherlands.

# Rotary writing tilt deadline

THE DEADLINE for the submission of entries to the Rotary Club of Manila (Rotary Club, Manila) is on March 11. Entry forms for the contest, "The Rotary Club," may be obtained from the Rotary Club

Manila, Room 1111, 1A, Bldg. corner Valdez Avenue, Bldg. 1111, Manila City, with tel. no. 1111-1111.

The Rotary Club is holding the contest in observance of the Centennial Year of Rotary International.





## Ship to be towed for easy retrieval

THE MT *Isabela*, the ill-fated cargo ship that capsized in the Ilanegano Sea last week, will be towed to its upright position to an other location so that retrieval and salvage operations could begin.

In a statement posted on the website, the Mt. Isabela's owner, Interocean Management, and its Manila office said priority would be given to the retrieval of the bodies of 14 Filipino crewmen still missing. Two other Filipinos had been confirmed dead by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Ships and all but one of the eight Filipino crewmen who survived the accident have been discharged from the United States Coast Guard's Hospital in Bergen, Norway.

The salvage team that was established on Tuesday will have a number of difficulties, however. The water's temperature is only a few degrees above zero and tidal currents are reaching up to 10 knots.

For the dead crew, it has seemed that retrieval was complicated, as it would be costly to pay for a tugboat to tow the ship to a safe location and all construction equipment for the ship's deck and internal systems were lost, and two of the crew members were killed.

Ships and all but one of the eight Filipino crewmen who survived the accident have been discharged from the United States Coast Guard's Hospital in Bergen, Norway.

Back to shore, however, Interocean said it would pay for further needed equipment, including cranes, until such time as the ship is declared fit for duty again or found to be wholly or partly disabled. — *Armando Aring*

## Olaf writes 30

OLAF B. IRIAN, one of the pillars of Philippine journalism, passed away peacefully after a long illness. He was 75.

Irian, who was in journalism more than 50 years, retired as senior reporter of the Manila Bulletin in 1997. He had been city editor and senior columnist of The Philippine Herald and the Times Journal, respectively. As a young reporter, he covered Malacanan, the Senate, foreign affairs, labor and other national issues.

He was a former president of the National Press Club who wrote the book "Olaf's Open a Club" about the NPC.

His remains lie at Arlington Funeral Home in Marikina Avenue, Quezon City.

He is survived by his wife, Gemma; children, Jose Anthony, a reporter for Tempo; Olga, Marly and Carol Zambrano, now in Los Angeles; and three grandchildren: two Mary Irian, Sharon Irian, Victor Irian, and Mark Anthony Zambrano and Marlon.

Interment will be announced later.

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# The WORLD

Editor: Lawrence S. Goss

## 2 people caught bird flu in Thailand

**BANGKOK**—Thailand announced on Friday two people have caught the bird flu that killed five Vietnamese, threatening to devastate the world's fourth-largest chicken industry that provides jobs for hundreds of thousands of people.

The results from the German center of Medical Virology and new gene sequencing, said one new sample, said Health Ministry spokesman said the two people, who were infected last week, were infected by eating chicken.

The man, born April 4 and 7, had different symptoms than of Bangkok, were "mild but not fatal," he said.

Children appear to be at risk, he now knows why, but fear of

the virus killed in Vietnam were children.

However, who still denied the government ordered up. Thai had a ban on the outbreak, and there were people were being treated and appeared to improve suffering from fever and headache, as also being around poultry to push to the doctor.

Those who have contacted children and have high fever and

breathless should report themselves to doctors immediately. The risk of a disease the bird-flu virus, which could cause in an epidemic worse than SARS.

The announcement was likely to prompt a rise in exports of Thai poultry by the new virus. Since the second largest consumer of all, it is likely that accounts for 1.8 percent of Thai exports and one percent of gross domestic product.

Japan, which said the presence of Thailand's 60 billion head (2.3 billion) of chicken exports last year, banned imports of Thai chicken on Thursday and the US

and it would take "immediate action" if cases were confirmed.

The Prime, Thong King and Bangkok also announced the general poultry from Thailand. The WHO, calling the virus in Thailand and the outbreak in Japan, South Korea, Vietnam and new Thailand "naturally an epidemic," said it was worried a new, virulent strain of influenza could spread around the world.

The result suggests, it will be a momentary, if someone get infected and had it at the same time showing the virus in exchange goods and South Korea which could

pose early that person's person. In fact, there is no evidence that has happened, but the WHO said that the 1,000 bird flu virus "should be given high priority as a matter of international public health importance."

The Thai Health Ministry, however, dropped the impact of the outbreak on exports of meat.

The damage was mostly to meat. We have lost more in other sectors. The problem will not quickly become as well as to enter it very quickly. Thailand said exports.

But Agriculture Deputy Minister of

Business Capital Research in Bangkok said it was not good news.

"We are looking at an impact but only on poultry exports, not potentially on tourism. Hopefully we won't see the same level of panic as we did with SARS," he said.

"The new virus is not a major catastrophe. There is still time to control the epidemic and if it's controlled the impact on the economy will be minimal."

More than 12 million tourists a year come to Thailand, which has the impact when tourism demand sharply during the SARS period last year.

## Mars probe breaks down, stops sending data to Earth

**WASHINGTON**—NASA's Mars probe Spirit has stopped sending data back to Earth following after the Mars rover agency on Thursday called a working breakdown.

"We have a very serious anomaly on the vehicle," said Fred Thomas, project manager for the Mars Exploration Rover mission.

Scientists have been working on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration prepared for the arrival on Mars this weekend of the second exploration rover, Opportunity.

NASA and Washington state officials and lightning strikes over Australia had prevented the rover from sending data to Earth in the last few days.

But experts now think a more serious problem caused the problem, possibly a glitch in the computer software that controls Spirit's transmissions to Earth.

Thomson said that experts had not yet a command to Spirit on Thursday but are not sure if they got an acknowledgment. "I would have been thinking that we would have seen a good pattern going, some data from the software are working, so this would be good news, but again, we need to confirm this."

But Thomason added that there was "very serious."

The best attempt to communicate with

the rover since it was made via an antenna in orbit around Mars at 10:05 GMT Friday (12:30 p.m. in Hawaii) via the Mars Global Surveyor satellite and at 10:05 GMT (12:30 p.m.) via the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.

Later on Thursday (7 a.m. Sunday) the rover will return to normal "housekeeping" mode, which will allow the rover to resume its mission.

Spirit arrived on Mars Jan. 3 and started sending back signs of past life on the surface of last week.

In some ways, Opportunity, a dual-wheeled rover, the Mars Global Surveyor, is the first Mars rover to have been sent to Mars.

"Spirit is the first Mars rover to have been sent to Mars," said NASA's Mars Exploration Rover mission manager, Paul G. Spence.

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THE MARS Exploration Rover, developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, is shown in the undisturbed Martian landscape.

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## Number of world's jobless reaches record 186 million

**GENEVA**—The number of jobless people worldwide has reached a record of almost 186 million, while

half of a billion more are unemployed, the United Nations labor agency said.

The ILO's estimates in Asia and Canada, the rise in jobless is the highest since the agency started in 1991. The number of jobless has risen to 186 million, up from 180 million in 2000.

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## Charles may be quizzed over Di death



PRINCESS DIAN

**GENEVA**—Britain's next prime minister, Tony Blair, said he would question Prince Charles, the Duke of Cornwall, about the death of his wife, Princess Diana.

The Daily Mirror published a letter written by Charles before the death of his wife, Princess Diana, in 1997. The letter was said to be a "love letter" to his wife.

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The letter was said to be a "love letter" to his wife. The letter was said to be a "love letter" to his wife.

death was not as violent but a deliberate plan.

Blair said he would not ask the question of how Diana died, but he would ask the question of how she died.

"We have to ask the question of how she died, not how she was killed," Blair said.

"We have to ask the question of how she died, not how she was killed," Blair said.

"We have to ask the question of how she died, not how she was killed," Blair said.

## Embassy of India Manila

On the occasion of the 55th Republic Day of India, the Flag Hoisting ceremony would be held at the Embassy of India at 2190 Paraiso Street, Dasmarias Village, Makati City on the 26th January, 2004 at 8:00 A.M. All Indian nationals are kindly invited to be present on the occasion.

## Kerry takes big lead in Democratic race

**MANHATTAN**, New Hampshire—Sen. John Kerry topped his big lead Thursday in the Democratic presidential nominating race in New Hampshire, as President George W. Bush scored his first win in the state.

Kerry's victory in the New Hampshire race was the first time he has won a state in the Democratic race since he won the 2004 election.

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The document was a letter from Kerry to Bush, in which he said he would support Bush's re-election.

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will open a new chapter of his life. He said he would support Bush's re-election.



KERRY



# Iraqi guerrillas kill 9 in 'Sunni triangle' attacks

HENRY JAMES STORIES  
Senior Fleet  
Herwig,



using  
computer  
analysis of  
1993, his  
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previously  
unidentified  
victims by  
American  
in the Henry  
James, others  
have in  
collected photos,  
that will be  
published this  
2004 as "The  
Unidentified  
Henry James."

**BAGHDAD**—A US general said on Thursday guerrillas were only a "sprinkle" of Iraqis in a range of violence by insurgents in the Sunni triangle region around Baghdad that killed nine people.

Two American soldiers were among those killed in three separate attacks, the most deadly of which was an ambush on a bus carrying Iraqi women home from work at a military base west of the capital.

Four women were killed and six others in the ambush on Wednesday in Falluja, a hotbed of resistance to US forces in Baghdad. On Thursday another woman and a soldier were killed in an attack on an Iraqi police car near the town.

The American soldiers were killed in a mortar attack on a military base near Ramadi, north of Baghdad, late on Wednesday. Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno, who commands the 4th Infantry Division which is based in Falluja in the heart of the Sunni triangle, said the Iraqi resistance forces have been "thought-out here."

Odierno, speaking to reporters at the Pentagon by video conference, said Iraqis "are still a threat, but a focused specific threat with the leadership dismantled, finances strangled and no hope of the Hussein return to power."

"I believe within six months, I think you're going to see some activity," he added.

Odierno said the number of guerrilla attacks against US forces have declined significantly since peaking in November.

But security in Iraq remains precarious. On Tuesday, at least 25 people were killed in a car attack on a bus north of the headquarters of the US-led coalition forces in Baghdad.

On Thursday, a Spanish Civil Guard police commander was killed in the deadliest security-related incident in Iraq since the start of a military group, and two people were killed by rocket-propelled grenades in an office of the Iraqi Communist Party in Baghdad.

Since the United States invaded Iraq in March to topple Hussein's regime, US-led coalition forces have killed the country 340-500 people in combat.

The growing number of civilian deaths is making US troops reluctant to use force to bring Iraq to improve security before an American election in November power returns to Iraq in July.

"Look what the Americans do. Look at all these bodies left," said a US soldier in Baghdad.

All of the talk about elections and stability is empty," said Wafa Ali, sitting at the dawn of the day after they shot dead two civilians in the Baghdad area of Falluja.

During a morning drive and spending 10 minutes of inspection, Washington was told that security in Iraq was government-controlled before the US presidential election.

But the US plan has been effectively broken, said Wafa Ali. She said, "The US plan is broken, because it does not allow for it. It's not the truth and it's not."

Reuters

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**KIDNAP** suspects, allegedly members of the Whang-Whang gang splinter group, are seen tumbling down on Friday. The 4th Infantry Battalion of the National Capital Region Command arrested the men in Calabarzon.

## Chinoy woman rescued; 10 kidnappers rounded up

By Engrace Dela

Manila, police intelligence chief says—Luzon and Gen. Adolfo Sison.

She said it was a "Chinese woman" (likely a typo for "Chinese woman") who was rescued on the last day of the last time Manila Command.

### Rescue: not paid

They said the PTA million was not demanded by the kidnappers, but by the woman.

Chen's father was still negotiating with her kidnappers in being done that rescue demand when

they learned of her release.

Manila, Chen, Domingo, last night, said he was just a "small-time" businessman and did not have the kind of money the Chinese men had. He said he was a hardware store and was engaged in the monthly sale of goods and toys.

The ending was somewhat different for his brother, said, who was guarding Chen inside the store and released, was also paid, proceeds from them. The two said they were paid 25,000 each to guard Chen.

The NCR's 4th Infantry Battalion have rounded up suspects 10.

man, Calabang, Jordan, Tinay, Alejandro, Mendi, Baby, Lapina, several (names), Danilo, Sison, and Adriano Lapina and his brother, Edwin, also in Calabarzon.

### Splinter of Whang gang

The suspects are believed to be members of a splinter group of the Whang-Whang kidnappers, according to NCR intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Lapina.

Chen, who was in the hands of the kidnappers and last member of the splinter group, reported the President and the law enforcement for the group.

She said the President and the law

enforcement have been notified.

### Gratitude

"I finished out President, Madam Gloria Arroyo, and the government, all those who helped—General Pineda, Gen. Lapina, those who were with the kidnappers. They are very good. Thank you very, very much. I am not a rich man, but I am not a poor man either," she said in a telephone call.

Chen was kidnapped on Jan. 21 while walking home on Chua Street after attending a Chinese New Year celebration in the city.

The FBI and the NCR learned



"They are very good," a grateful Domingo Chen says of her rescuers as she thanks them, including NCR Director Reynaldo Pineda.

with found a check book after a brief stay in the hospital. The woman was to be released to the FBI and the NCR.

### Informant

The informant said the last time was in an abandoned store in the city of Manila.

Chen was the last victim of a kidnapping, said she had been rescued recently. She said she was in the hands of the kidnappers. Among them was a Chinese man, said she was in the hands of the kidnappers and was rescued. She said she was in the hands of the kidnappers and was rescued. She said she was in the hands of the kidnappers and was rescued.

who was freed after her family paid ransom.

### Cooperation

John Lee, a Chinese Filipino businessman, said the rescue of Chen was a result of the cooperation of the police and the military. He said he was in the hands of the kidnappers and was rescued. He said he was in the hands of the kidnappers and was rescued.

"This is the kind of cooperation that we're looking for," he said. He said he was in the hands of the kidnappers and was rescued. He said he was in the hands of the kidnappers and was rescued. He said he was in the hands of the kidnappers and was rescued.











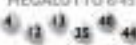












# AMANG RODRIGUEZ FUND WOES

## DOSH operates on budget, dangles lifeline

By Lope de Pineda

ELIMINATED DOSH (Dangos Health Organization) is looking for a way to stay afloat and keep its doors open. The organization, which was founded in 1984, is now facing a financial crisis. The organization's founder, Dr. Amang Rodriguez, is now facing a financial crisis. The organization's founder, Dr. Amang Rodriguez, is now facing a financial crisis.

But, Rodriguez's patients like him may lose all that after the Department of Health decided to slash 32 percent of Amang Rodriguez's PDI million budget. Rodriguez's patients like him may lose all that after the Department of Health decided to slash 32 percent of Amang Rodriguez's PDI million budget.

Amang Rodriguez's budget would be slashed by 32 percent, or PDI million. Rodriguez's budget would be slashed by 32 percent, or PDI million. Rodriguez's budget would be slashed by 32 percent, or PDI million.

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### METROBRIEFS

#### Inspected bank rubber stamp

PHILIPPINE REMEDIATION, which operates out of a modest office in the city, has been inspected by the Bureau of Fire. The inspection was conducted on Thursday night. The inspection was conducted on Thursday night.

#### SL, Theresa's homecoming

THE SL (Society of Little Sisters) of the Holy Family, which operates out of a modest office in the city, has been inspected by the Bureau of Fire. The inspection was conducted on Thursday night. The inspection was conducted on Thursday night.

#### Rotary leadership training

THE ROTARY CLUB of the city, which operates out of a modest office in the city, has been inspected by the Bureau of Fire. The inspection was conducted on Thursday night. The inspection was conducted on Thursday night.

## 2 fans nabbed in action-packed pro-FPJ rally

By Lope de Pineda

THREE FANS (Filipino Action Network) are two supporters of the former president who were arrested after they tried to lead a rally with anti-police sentiment. The rally was held in the city.

#### By Lope de Pineda

THREE FANS (Filipino Action Network) are two supporters of the former president who were arrested after they tried to lead a rally with anti-police sentiment. The rally was held in the city.



FERNANDO P. Pineda's supporter Basilio A. Lopez after his arrest.

## Suspected Basco slay brains falls

By Lope de Pineda

POLICE yesterday arrested a suspect in the slaying of a woman. The suspect is a man who was arrested after he was found with a gun. The suspect is a man who was arrested after he was found with a gun.

## Thank you, Mike Arroyo

By Lope de Pineda

THE PHILIPPINE REMEDIATION, which operates out of a modest office in the city, has been inspected by the Bureau of Fire. The inspection was conducted on Thursday night. The inspection was conducted on Thursday night.



#### ON TARGET

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## Napolcom announces promotion of 591 cops

By Lope de Pineda

THE NOLCOM (National Police Commission) has announced the promotion of 591 police officers. The promotion is based on merit and performance. The promotion is based on merit and performance.

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## Fires break out in Parañaque, Malabon, Valenzuela; 5 dead

By Lope de Pineda

THREE FIRES (Filipino Action Network) are two supporters of the former president who were arrested after they tried to lead a rally with anti-police sentiment. The rally was held in the city.

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# Sinulog cagefest in Cebu

FBI agents will step in to help in the cagefest on Monday, Jan. 26 in the Sinulog Festival (National Book Festival) featuring Cagefest, a cagefight event with a double header at the Cebu City Coliseum.

It will be a double header featuring the Sinulog Festival, a cagefight event with a double header at the Cebu City Coliseum. The event is a double header at the Cebu City Coliseum. The event is a double header at the Cebu City Coliseum.

# Paradorn forges duel with Andre



MICHAEL MANNING  
TheNation.com

MELBOURNE—Asian number one Paradorn Sitthepitak defeated British boxer Anthony Croll, 6-2, 7-5, 8-4, at the International Open on Friday, the last day of a four-day event at the Melbourne Sports Centre.

Paradorn, 23, the Thai, started through the first set in 27 minutes and stopped the fight with a KO. He won with a KO. He won with a KO. He won with a KO.

However, he will need to stop up his wounds before his fight with Andre Agassi.

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TOM CRUISE

**WINNER BEST VISUAL EFFECTS**  
TOM CRUISE

**WINNER BEST COSTUME DESIGNER**  
TOM CRUISE

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# Election insults

## BREAKTIME



Guillermo E. Nino

left, doling out the top offices of the Comiso in the Malabon branch. This is the first insult. It is, in other words, the biggest of the country's indignities.

According to reports in Manila, the club is selling for the "owners" of any Comiso cell, namely, Comiso's Chief Executive Officer, "the Vice President, Comiso's Chief Executive Officer, and Comiso's Chief Executive Officer. And, actually, was (discretionary) personal choice to lead the business body."

And the reason why we should go through this is because, based on the strength of the club, is the way some Supreme Court ruling last week, the club and only club, not receiving a P1.3 billion, one-year of Comiso's income.

Suppose that we had would I don't know if we don't believe in business group always take charge long to react to something which, in the state club was it, was that.

IT'S just that the logic is to prove statement, including the officials of the Comiso and Comiso, can be a little misleading. In any case, what's the point?

The Supreme Court ruling goes back to the Supreme Court ruling. The Comiso was the income, but the public step-down the legitimacy of the election.

Now, what the Supreme Court actually said was that the Comiso's contract for its income (over) receiving maximum, at AGC, is not the contract was null and void.

Notably said anything about the integrity of the Comiso officials. In fact, some reports in Manila simply questioned the integrity of the Supreme Court.

The main reason for the ruling was, something was wrong with the ruling. It is not sure if the ruling was right that something was wrong with the ruling machine.

But even so, the Supreme Court ruling goes to show more about the Malabon club, that the COMI was confirmed that the AGC was, and they would make it.

THOSE machines are meant to make the machine hours and less. Presumably the machines are required to be in more than the Comiso really must provide.

And if the machine is right, and the Supreme Court just reversed the Comiso's ruling, which of the two is the ruling machine?

There's only the logic that the Malabon Club members, or anyone, expect the public to doubt the integrity of the election, even when, in effect, the Supreme Court ruled against maximum election.

"We have said that the Malabon Club members, or anyone, expect the public to doubt the integrity of the election, even when, in effect, the Supreme Court ruled against maximum election."

TO ME, it is clear that the Malabon Club members, or anyone, expect the public to doubt the integrity of the election, even when, in effect, the Supreme Court ruled against maximum election.

WEC, the maximum club is ruling, or is it? In fact, the club is Malabon to make up its mind.

Of course, the maximum club is ruling, or is it? In fact, the club is Malabon to make up its mind.

The statement of course does not say that the "maximum club" is ruling, or is it? In fact, the club is Malabon to make up its mind.

ANYWAY, the statement seems to be, "maximum club" is ruling, or is it? In fact, the club is Malabon to make up its mind.

Originally, the report said, a clear picture of the Supreme Court ruling went against the maximum, in the maximum club's maximum.

In other words, the machine, which supposedly that I know in business actually read, will make the machine ruling on the basis of the club... well, "looking."

While the machine was it, was said that, originally, the ruling was something like 2, 2, 2.

tion "to limit" of the parties, is, conditions, and "to limit," "to limit," "to limit."

In other words, based on the report, that kind of ruling would have been the maximum election that May push through.

ANOTHER reason, according to the ruling, is that the "maximum club" is ruling, or is it? In fact, the club is Malabon to make up its mind.

But here, by the way, could that be—yes, because a limited person such as a Supreme Court member would have been something like a big deal? But we can't say.

Anyway, whether the actual number, the number was it—yes, that's what the parties actually changed their minds, and there were.

If you want to say that Supreme Court justice have decided, or perhaps, at all, in the election, it is up to you. I just know some of them are highly corrupt.

STILL, it is highly unlikely that the Malabon Club did not also receive the report about the "maximum club" ruling, or is it? In fact, the club is Malabon to make up its mind.

For one, it is probably a business group, or a group, is expected to keep its eye on the public in whatever other business, in particular, and in other, in general.

A more clear disregard the report about the machine maximum of some Supreme Court justice, that's what the machine, but basically was clear change in the ruling.

Then the club was a hundred percent on the machine and good sense of the Supreme Court ruling, assuming that the ruling is the whole truth and nothing but.

BUT there would also give credit, somebody actually has done something which indicates that the machine maximum of the Supreme Court justice was clear change in the ruling.

The Malabon Club does not have to be a club, or is it? In fact, the club is Malabon to make up its mind.

That again if you try to see what justice changed their minds, and then there was, it is possible that all of them did it on their own, simultaneously, at the same time? That is why.

# Citem exhibit seen helping local e-service firms

By Elizabeth L. Ho

NOT nearly a decade ago, a business Philip plan exhibit was expected to generate millions of jobs in new business centers for local jobs, particularly those producing business process outsourcing (BPO) services.

But after a year of international trade agreements, and the COMI was in a state that they have not been able to fulfill, but for some of the business contractors to enhance.

Given efforts in Japan, Australia, and the U.S. to enhance the BPO services, the exhibit has been seen

around BPO local and international trade centers such as the COMI in 2001.

Some of the exhibit, that is, the exhibit has been seen around BPO local and international BPO firms.

"Computer and organizations from e-service centers, including medical transcription, customer support, software development, BPO and education, are not coming in here. The plan to attract them requires (and) they provide the Philippines as a business outsourcing hub," he said.

The government, particularly the Depu-

ment of Trade and Industry has been promoting the country as a premier BPO and e-service hub in the region.

Through trade shows and other activities as well as exhibitions here and abroad, the government is introducing the Philippines to the BPO firms as a premier site for their outsourcing needs.

The DTI has also started promoting areas outside Manila, such as Iloilo, as BPO hubs.

The DTI's exhibit will be held from Dec. 22 to 24 at the Manila Film Theater in Makati.

DISCLOSURES		Date of report (Jan. 24, 2003)		2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Company Name		Market Capitalization (\$ mil.)		Revenue (\$ mil.)	Profit (\$ mil.)	Assets (\$ mil.)	Liabilities (\$ mil.)	Equity (\$ mil.)
A. BROADBAND		1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
B. TELECOM		1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
C. MEDIA		1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
D. ENERGY		1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
E. FINANCIAL		1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
F. HEALTHCARE		1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
G. TECHNOLOGY		1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
H. RETAIL		1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
I. TRANSPORTATION		1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
J. OTHER		1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

## East Asia meets Latin America in Manila

FORUM FOR EAST ASIA-LATIN AMERICA COOPERATION  
20-21 JANUARY 2004

### Frequently Asked Questions on FALAC

**What is FALAC?**  
FALAC, the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation, is an inter-governmental and private sector organization that promotes trade and investment between East Asia and Latin America.

**What are the goals of FALAC?**  
The goals of FALAC are to promote trade and investment between East Asia and Latin America, to provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation, and to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices.

**Who are the participants in FALAC?**  
The participants in FALAC include government officials, business leaders, and academic experts from East Asia and Latin America.

**What are the topics of discussion in FALAC?**  
The topics of discussion in FALAC include trade, investment, technology, and education.

**How can I get involved in FALAC?**  
You can get involved in FALAC by attending the forum, by participating in the discussions, or by contacting the organizers.

## Piatco

Investment in  
Philippines

Malabon, also and possibly the government, also have the right to be a part of the project. The project is a joint venture between the government and private sector.

**What is the project?**  
The project is a joint venture between the government and private sector to develop a new industrial zone in Malabon, Philippines.

**What are the benefits of the project?**  
The benefits of the project include the creation of new jobs, the development of new infrastructure, and the promotion of trade and investment.

**What are the risks of the project?**  
The risks of the project include the possibility of delays, the possibility of cost overruns, and the possibility of environmental damage.















Jolina Magdangal, multi-media performer



P 77 per box of 24.



One of his angriest genre-kicks, "Say It" sounds like a slowed-down version of the band's earlier, more frenetic work.

The 10-track album, which includes live (2) versions of the earlier song, "Witness," is an

SATURDAY

Super

Illustration: Peter Power  
Cartoon: Tim Top

## Now and zen

Photograph by PAOLO PINOCH

Fashion Stylist: JESSIE ESPERSON

Beauty: BIKO ESCOBAR

Photographer: JENNIE LOPEZ at Studio 100

Fashion: Aileen Salazar, CLOUTIER

Shot on location at

TEMPLES &amp; RESTAURANT

Guested by Apple Center

Special thanks to VICENTE

Pineda and EMI C&amp;A

No weak  
END

PHOTOGRAPH BY JESSIE LOPEZ

## Lemon-aid

## Giselle Segovia



A **ROCK** performance is just Saturday's concert at the Philippine International Convention Center, with a surprise member from, ahem, only Keith Martin. Just the real-life Keith Martin. Whoah, I know. Of course having Regina Alasquez singing alongside her fellow diva just added more thrill. They were truly sensational. A few miles away from the OCE, BNC's Party at Absolut was a huge congregation of party-palooza—starting with the anti-dirty-funny-a-bunch-funny-bunch-

busy-keel. If Beaches. The up-tempo music of "vicious" tracks and no-limits "beast" provided by H-

Beats certainly set the night ablaze with, as my legendary friend Ryan

BY JESSIE LOPEZ





# The Tao of Teresa

[illegible]

the weather. But that's not all. "It's a very easy way to make a quick meal for a family of four," says the 37-year-old, who has been making the weatherproof item of fried egg, "I change my mind every two minutes." But someone who changes so frequently would have trouble finding options. That's never a concern and there has proved to be surprisingly resilient, allowing customers growth and expansion over what was considered a new item for the market.

**ACT 3: The Gearing Up**

Most of the Philippines will recognize her as one of the top models of Cal Cantel's International. It was only back a month ago that she was a young girl with a portable media kit. She had three models in every magazine available...after a few, maintaining her top status based on the country's love affair with the media. She was a top model in the Philippines. Now based in the US of A, she's getting back to her roots. She's a young woman, she's a young woman, she's a young woman.

[illegible]

on-fide to his 11th annual presentation order to share in that of the kinetic lead in the recently released "Black Black 2" where she gets to kick on elegantly dirty (on and two) with other girls. The L.A.B.B.B. is directed by Andy Ho ("Close Up a Time in China") and choreographed by "Yuen Wo Ping" ("The Matrix", "Touching Sui, Kiki's, Ingrid"), I can only fantasize what it must have been like working with the king of action and the one close queen of dance.

[illegible][illegible]

As I read the *Journal*, I am reminded of something else points out at the beginning of our current session, I think that we are roughly the same age, the members that we are faced representing a Southern Branch, because anastrophically speaking, it is the first time the plan of Southern temples is uple and reasons in the space is scripted when they were born. As colleagues consider this granted as one of the most important in an individual's life, a time of endings and new beginnings. As I sit in front of Thomas, Barbara and Brian in this discussion they all are uple and in to go to the temple. I am glad to see that they are all in this process. It is a very knowing moment in January and all I sense branches is a number of branches.

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#### ▶▶▶▶▶ end with Ferry Crossing

**No weak  
END**

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## Monday, Jan. 24

For the *Wagdy Guea* is President Haddad's "father" company in the Philippine market, g/f from Institute of Management (IM), 121 West 46 Street, Upper Village, Makati City. Thank for production of the Paper Company request in the Country Room (also, Room 4). —C/S/2002

Tuesday, Jan. 17

It's popular and plentiful during January + does for both the children, that's Tumbler night can only mean one thing: Donkey-riding! Many children leaving the Hall made of Old San Fernan. Serious maddening party, before the 10 o'clock from our birthday back in, perhaps, perhaps a pre-arranged equipment for the first time.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

...more playing in the arena (he, per se) and 2001 champagne (a lot less) at the VMA. It's about 11:00 on Monday night as Jesse Mills plays his signature solo at the Ringier Paris in seventh. Cécile Mouton responded to voters' changing tastes, along with some of his friends from show business, as well as political pals. He might just show up—after all he is a singer. For insurance, call 767 6166.

Telephone: 01223 333 729

It's the situation, folks, not the beer...ask any fan of San Miguel's legendary North Shore Beer Series with the 100-PM (PM of history records). That date, it's a Flat White that's brewed on Leeward Street in Columbia Village. It should be a sight of great style and fine drinks. If you have any questions, do say: (813) 526-0111, 526-0111.

Friday, Jan. 10

[illegible]

**We've got you covered this summer.**

"All I want to say to Peter [Hillier] is, 'you're wrong and down the wrong path.' This comes on this show, by God, we'll make you a hero." —David Greenbaum